

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013
IRREGULARITIES IN TRADE OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain instances of irregularities have been reported in the export and import of foodgrains including pulses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the nature of such irregularities reported during the last three years and the current year along with the total loss of revenue as a result of such irregularities, year-wise;
- (c) whether some importers have allegedly delayed the lifting of the imported pulses from the docks, speculating rise in the prices of pulses in the domestic markets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such importers; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure better mechanism for monitoring such irregularities and complaints and to take appropriate and corrective measures in the matter promptly?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) No irregularities have been reported in the export and import of foodgrains during the last three years and the current year. However, C&AG in its Performance report on Sale and Distribution of Pulses for the period ended March 2011 has made certain observations on import of pulses on Government account by PSUs.
- (b) PSUs under Department of Commerce and NAFED undertook import of pulses on Government account (under a scheme for reimbursement of losses upto 15% which has been discontinued w.e.f. 31.3.2011) to bridge the gap between demand and production of pulses in the country and to exercise a moderating influence of prices. However, losses went beyond 15% due to factors beyond the control of importing agencies which included increase in the international prices of pulses, depreciation of India rupee, exchange rate fluctuations, lower sales realisation as compared to the landed cost of pulses, the global meltdown, etc. The PSUs under Department of Commerce and NAFED suffered losses of Rs.173.38 crore during 2010-11 under the scheme.
- (c) to (e) Certain delays were due to clearance delays at port, local holidays/strikes by transport authorities, and difficulty in locating warehouses at major ports. There were also some delays in local Plant Quarantine Authorities clearances. These delays/irregularities were beyond the control of importing agencies. While Government has been monitoring import of pulses on regular basis, the scheme was brought to a close w.e.f. 31.3.2011.